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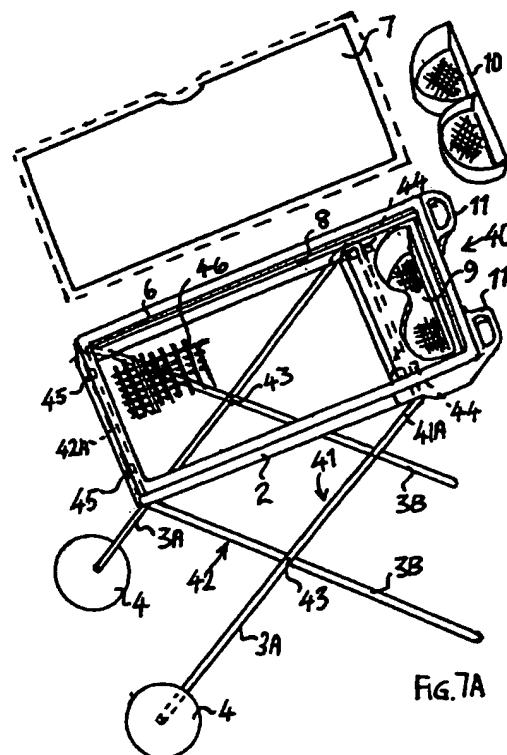
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(54) Clothes basket carrier

(57) A clothes basket carrier 40 comprises a rigid weather proof carrier member 2 suitable for supporting a clothes basket (B fig 2) and a plurality of legs 3A, 3B to support the carrier member, the carrier member being apertured for drainage. The legs may be plastic or plastic coated and foldable relative to the carrier member or removable therefrom (figs 1-3). At least one of the legs may include wheels 4, which may be plastic. The carrier member may be open (fig 14), in the form of a container (figs 5 and 6), or in the form of a tray, in which case a recessed portion 8 may receive the basket and a shallow peripheral wall 6 may retain it. The carrier member may be formed by a plastics moulding and/or its base may be in the form of a grid 46, which may be plastics coated metal. Means 9 for defining or retaining a secondary container 10, eg for clothes pegs, may be provided. A handlebar 11 or the like may be provided. A removable top 7 may be provided to allow the carrier to be used as a table.



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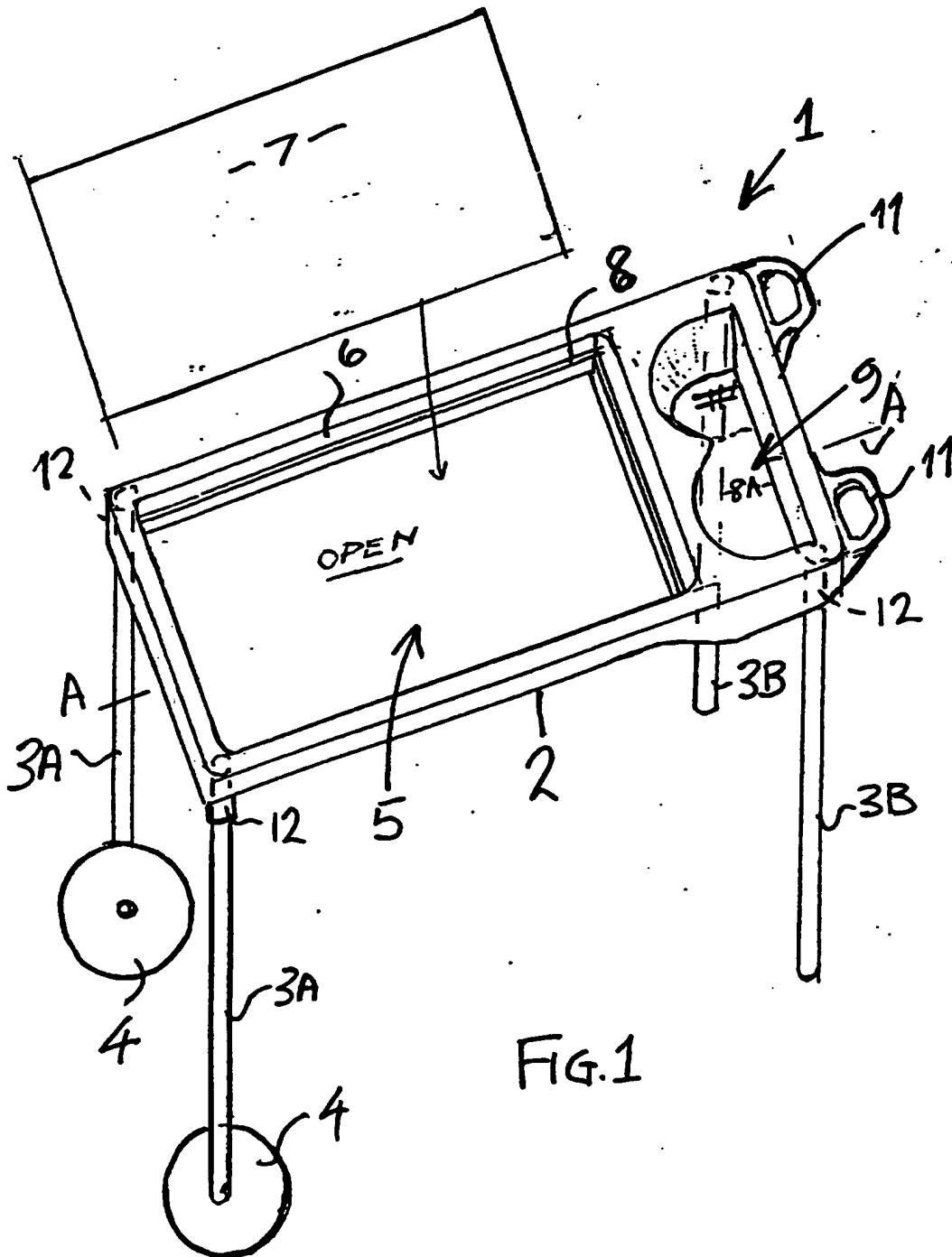
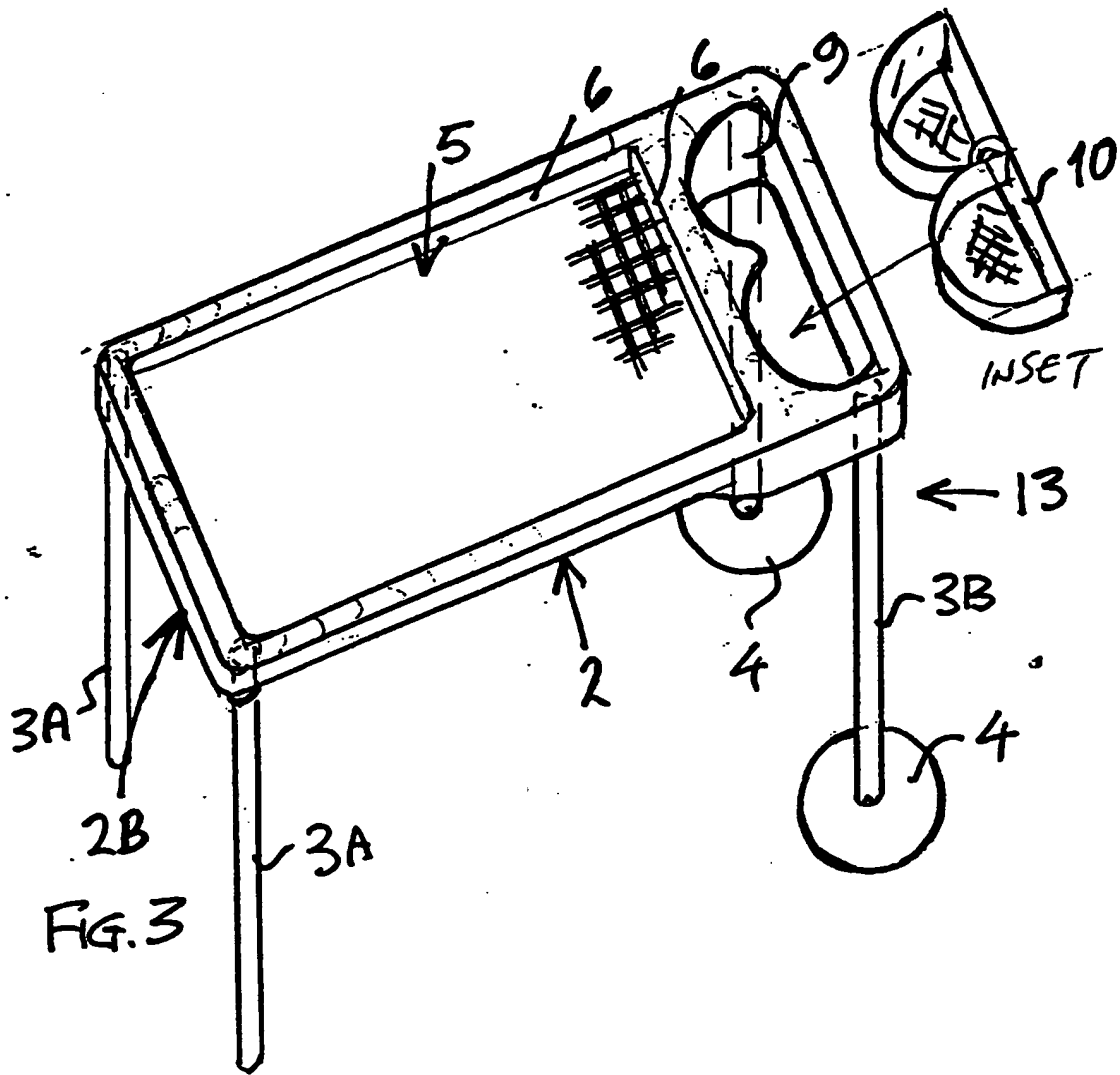


FIG. 1



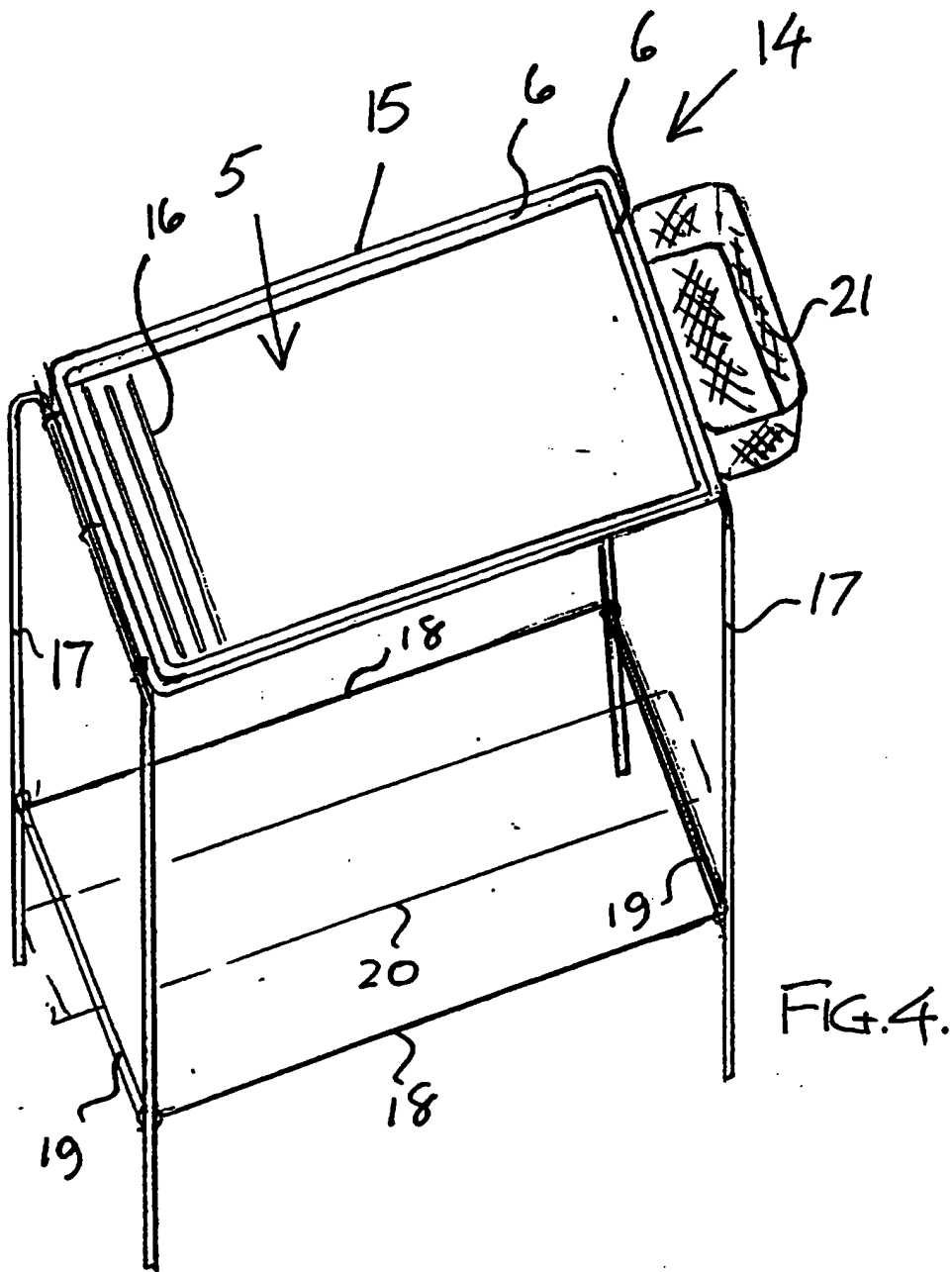


FIG.4.

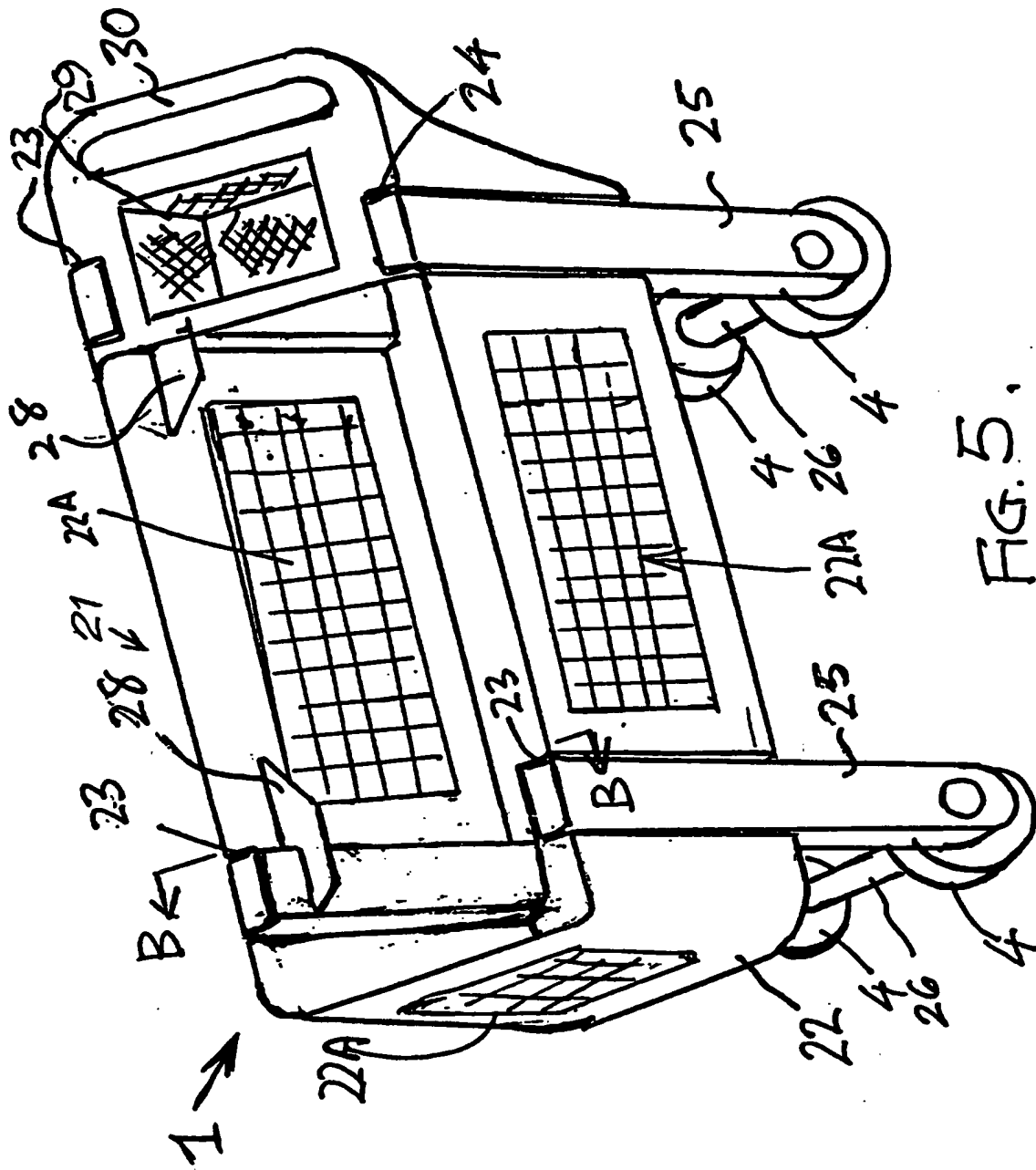
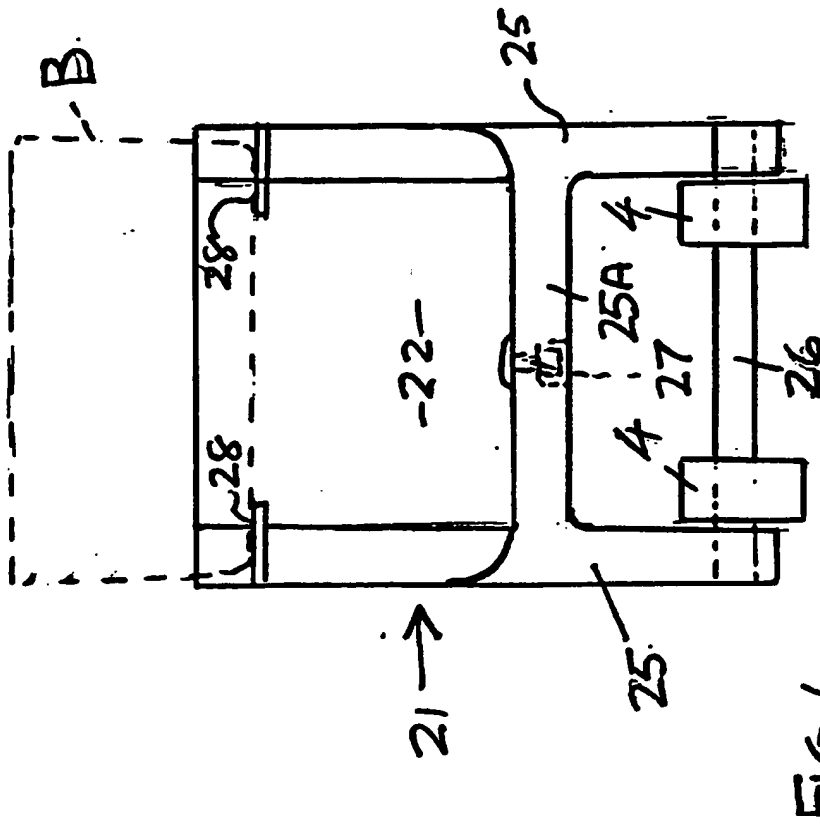
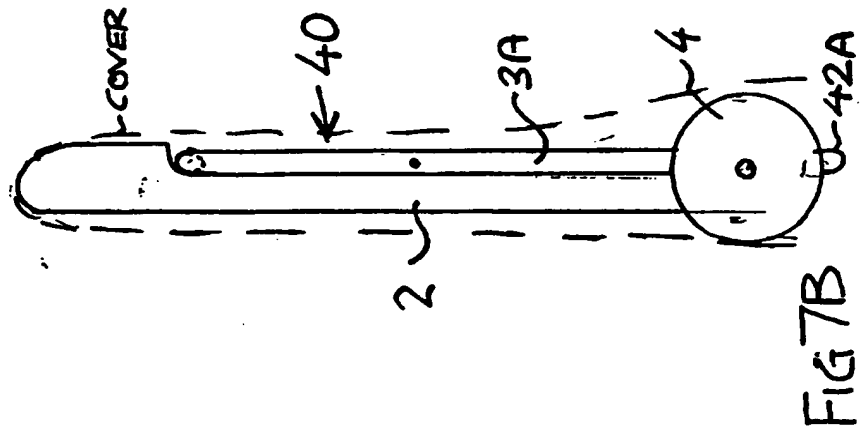
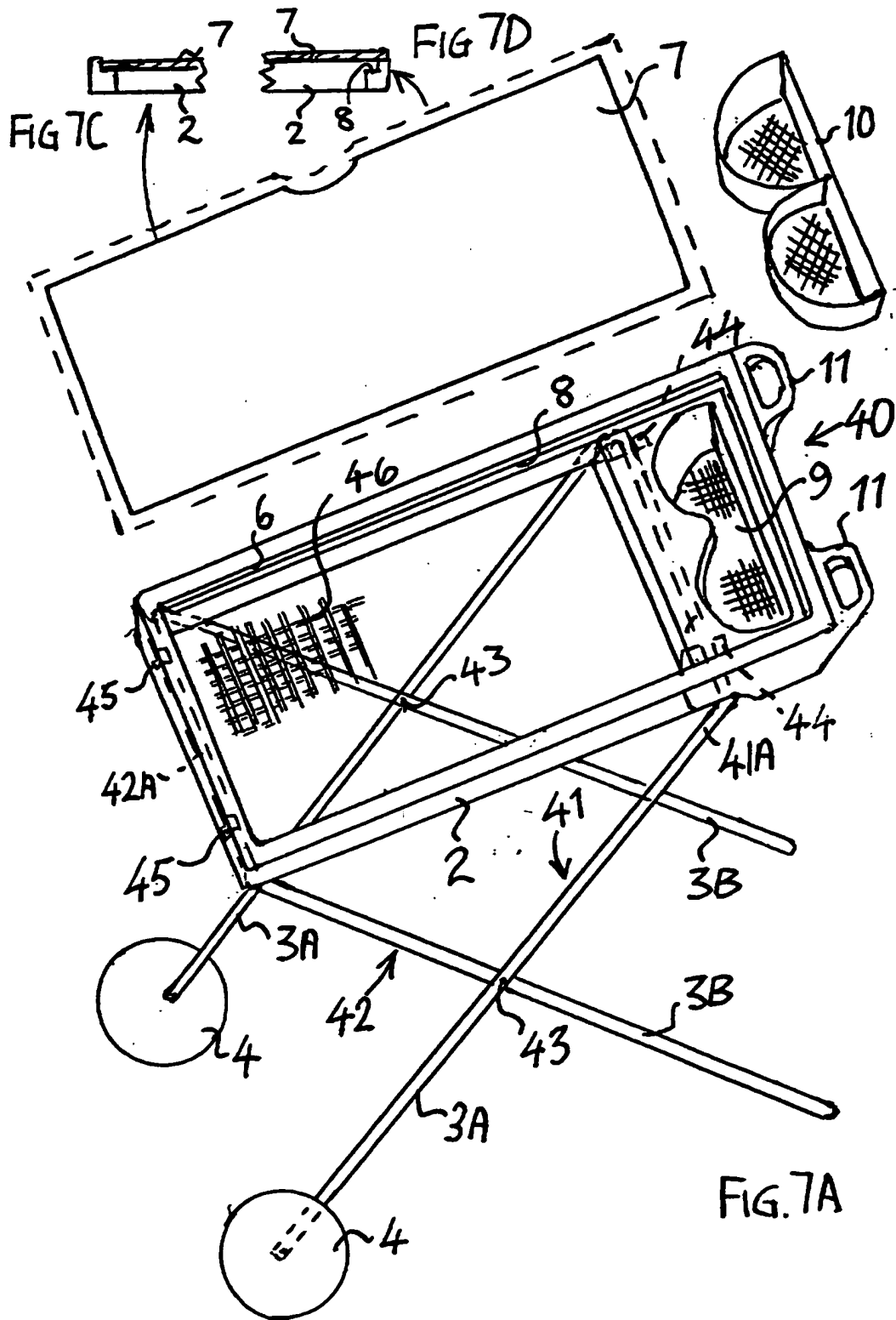
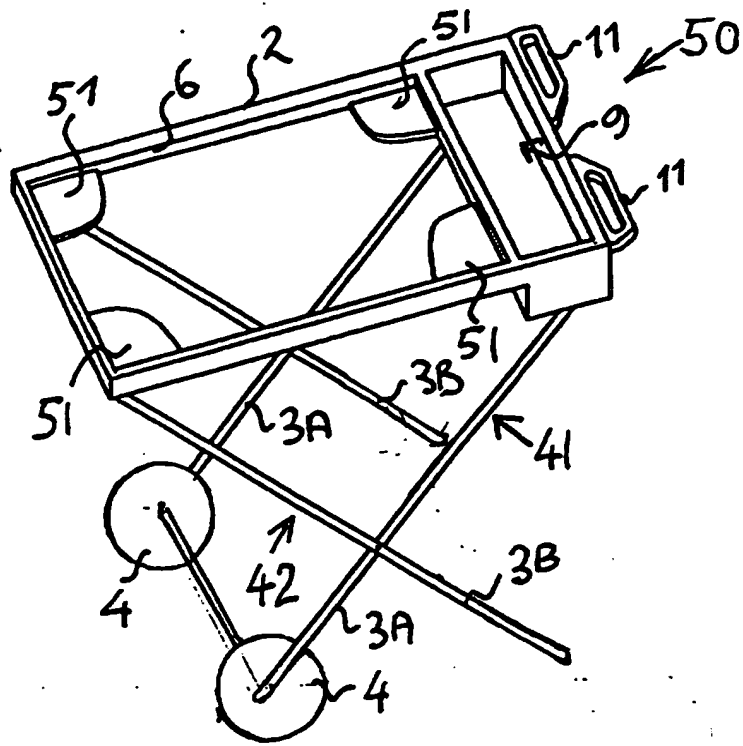
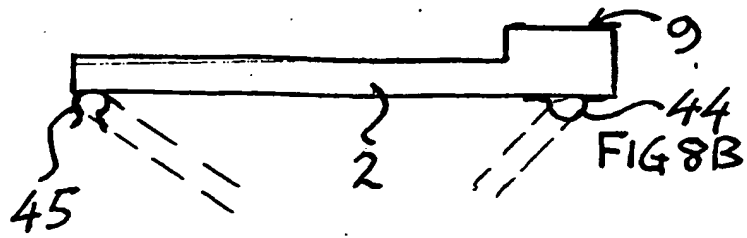
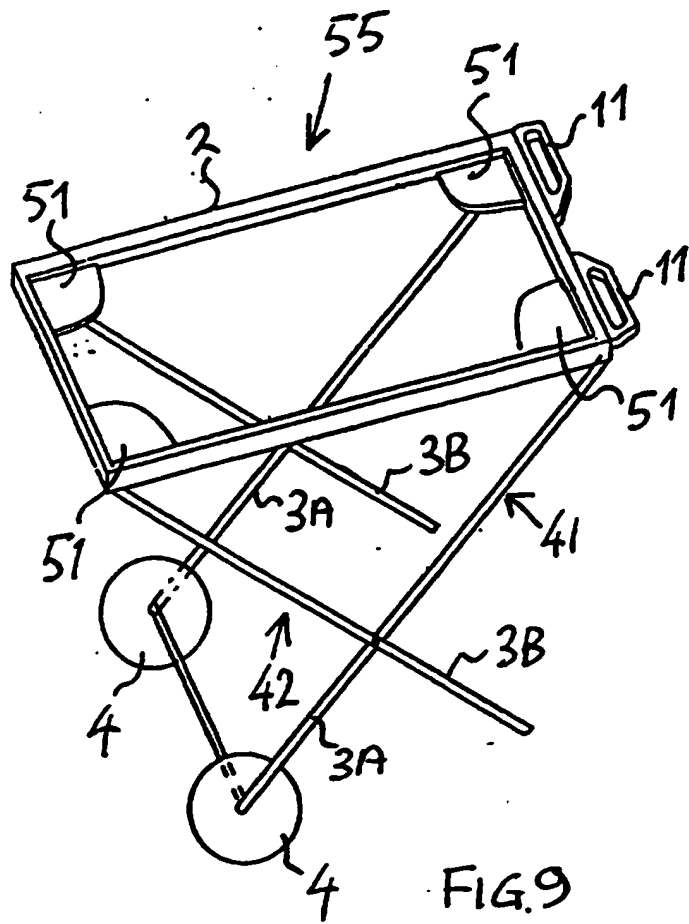


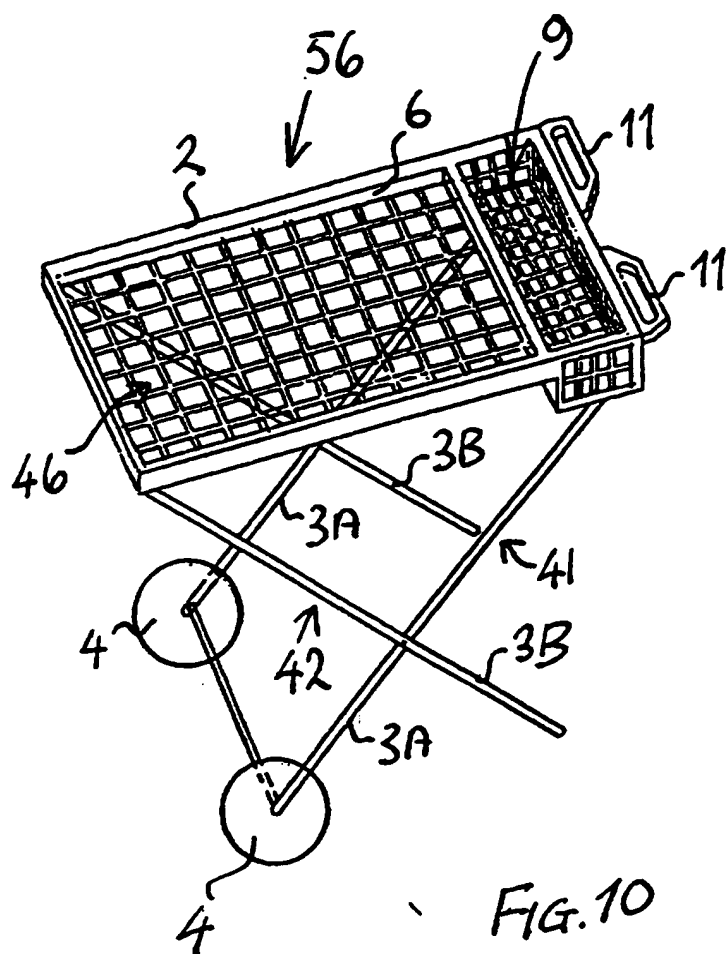
FIG. 5.

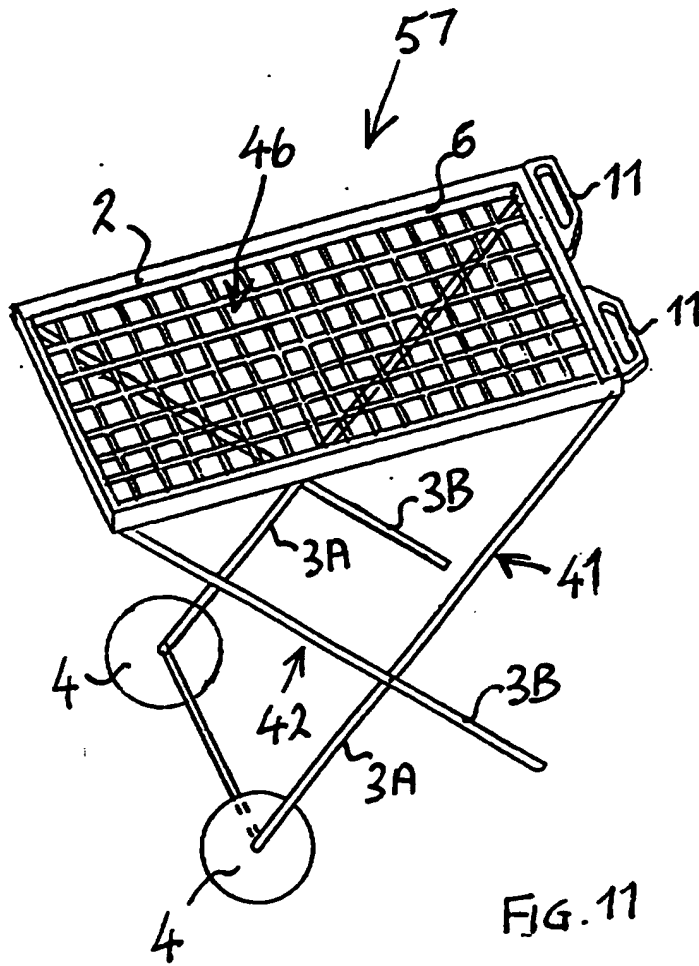


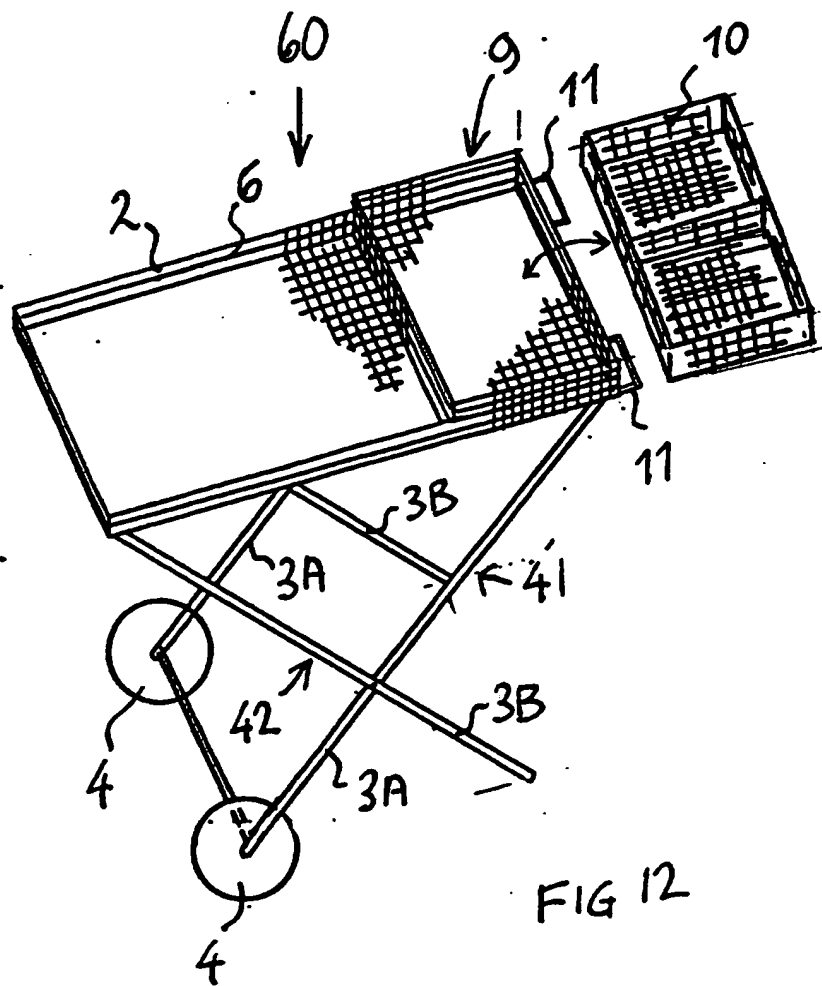


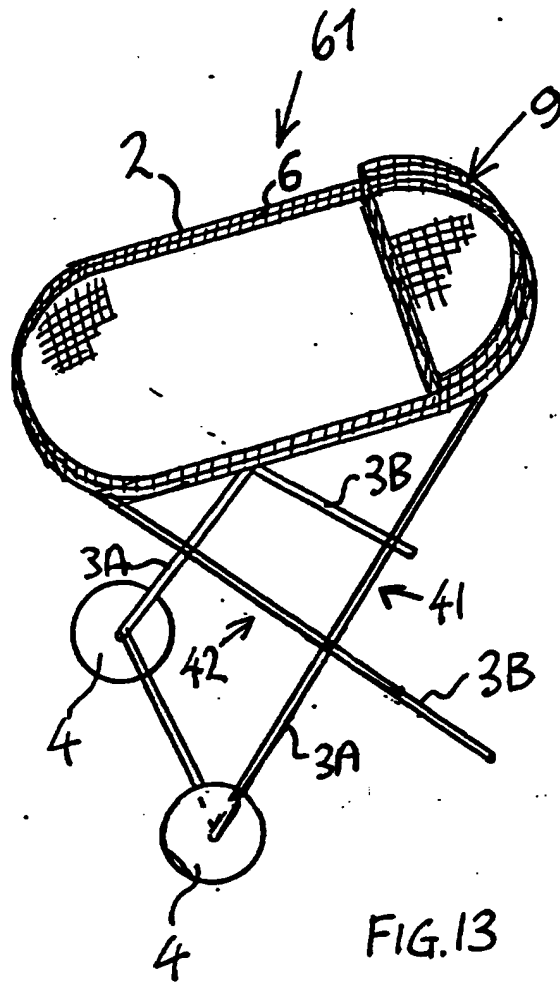


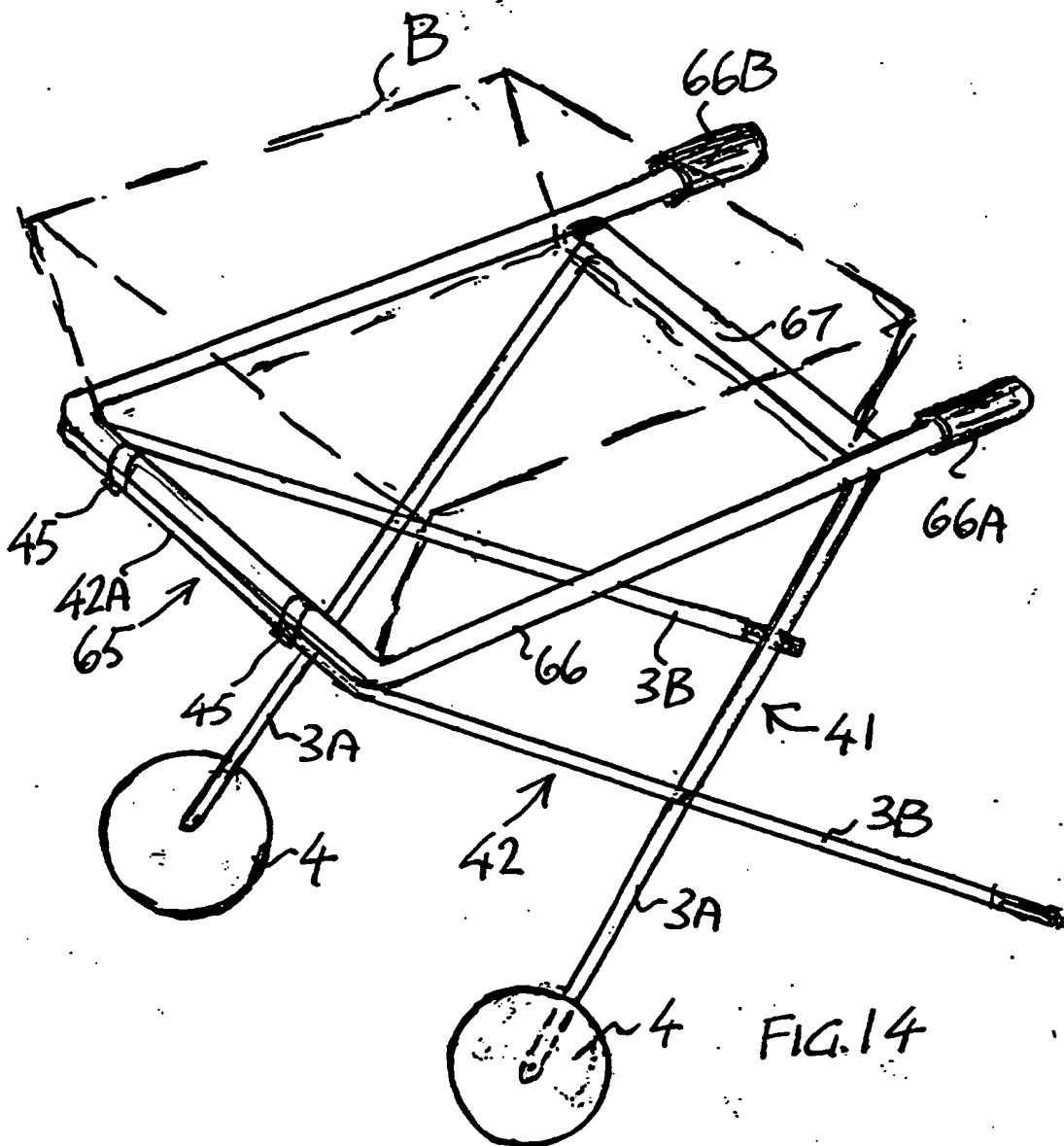












"Carrier for a Clothes Basket"

The present invention relates to article carriers but more especially to a carrier for conveniencing the handling of articles of clothing or linen at a clothes line.

Trolley-type carriers have been proposed for the purpose of carrying clothes at a clothes line so avoiding the disadvantage of the user having to bend to pick clothes from a basket on the ground, which has been part of the standard practice for placing and retrieving clothes from a clothes line. Therefore US-A-4948077 shows a specially designed clothes basket adapted to be carried by a foldable wheeled frame, while GB-A-2212114A, FR-A- 2614860 and CH-A-675865 disclose trolleys adapted to support a conventional clothes basket, the trolleys of GB-A-2212114A and FR-A-2614860 being of a foldable type. At least one of these previous clothes basket trolleys had the disadvantage of being limited in the size of basket which could be carried while others were substantially of metal construction such as to render the carrier unsuitable for long periods of exposure to inclement weather.,

It is an object of the present invention to provide a clothes carrier for use at the clothes line which enjoys greater versatility, and a further object of the present invention is the provision of a carrier which can be left out-of-doors for lengthy periods without substantial deterioration.

According to the present invention there is provided a carrier for a clothes basket comprising a rigid carrier member adapted to support a clothes basket, and legs to support the carrier member so that the basket is at an elevated locating facilitating the placement and removal of clothes from the basket, the carrier member being formed of plastics material or by elements having an outer later providing protection against weathering, the base of the carrier member being apertured for drainage of water from the carrier member.

Preferably at least one of the legs and preferably two includes means to facilitate movement of the carrier; these means can in particular comprise wheel means.

In one preferred embodiment, the carrier member is in the form of a tray adapted to support and locate a basket for articles, while in a further preferred embodiment the carrier member is in the form of a primary container to hold articles. Preferably the primary container includes support means to carry a basket for further articles.

Preferably further the carrier member includes means for retaining or defining a secondary container to hold additional articles e.g. clothes pegs.

Preferably the tray is configured to provide a recessed portion to receive the basket, a shallow peripheral wall of the recessed portion serving to retain the basket.

Preferably the carrier member includes a handlebar or like means to facilitate movement of the carrier.

The legs may comprise individual members separately fitted to the carrier member, but could be integral with the carrier member; alternatively the legs may be foldably fitted to the carrier member.

The legs and the wheel means also are preferably of plastics material.

The individual legs can be fitted to the carrier member by a releasable fastener.

In a further preferred embodiment, a removable top is provided for the carrier member whereby the carrier can serve as a table, means being present for retainment of the top on the carrier member.

The recessed portion of the tray may be adapted to receive a sheet insert which is suitably configured e.g. to hold a basket.

Embodiments of the present invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings wherein:

Fig. 1 shows a pictorial view of a trolley to carry a clothes basket, in accordance with the present invention.

Fig. 2 shows section A-A of the tray of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a similar view to that of Fig. 1 but showing a further embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 4 shows a pictorial view of yet a further embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 5 is a pictorial view of a clothes carrying trolley according to a further embodiment of the invention; and

Fig. 6 shows the section B-B of Fig. 5.

Fig. 7A shows a pictorial view of a clothe basket trolley similar to that of Fig. 1 but provided with folding legs, Fig. 7B showing a side view of this trolley in the folded condition while Fig. 7C, 7D show details .

Fig. 8A to 11 show pictorial view of various trolleys in accordance with the present invention with plastics moulding form basket carriers generally similar to that of Fig. 7 but with modifications, Fig. 8B showing a modification to the trolley of Fig. 8A.

Fig. 12 and 13 are pictorial view of further embodiments of the invention, wherein the basket carrier part (tray) is formed by open-work, plastics coated metal mesh, and

Fig. 14 shows yet a further embodiment in pictorial view

Referring to Figs 1 and 2, a trolley 1 serves to support a clothes basket (generally shown as B in Fig. 2) and in particular the trolley 1 can be used at a clothes (hanging) line so that the basket is at an elevated position - rather than on the ground as normal- whereby the need for excessive bending by the user to remove and replace clothes from and to the basket B can be avoided.

The trolley 1 comprises a tray 2 of plastics material formed for example by an injection moulding process thereby providing potential economies in production costs, and individual downstanding legs 3A,

3B of circular cross section fitted to the tray 2, the legs 3A, 3B also being beneficially of plastics material. A pair of the legs (3A) carry wheels 4, again advantageously of plastics material. The other legs 3B constitute supports facilitating arrestment of the trolley 1 when stationary, especially on the drying green.

A significant feature of the tray 2 is the presence of a shallow recess 5 whereat the clothes basket B is located.

A shallow peripheral wall 6 of the recess 5 serves in the retention of the basket B on the trolley 1. In this example the recess 5 has an open bottom which is covered by a removable sheet insert 7 sitting on a peripheral ledge 8 in the recess. The insert 7 may be apertured appropriately with for example various shaped holes, e.g. round, rectangular etc. A further significant feature of the trolley 1 is the provision of means to support a container (secondary) in the tray for clothes pegs. Thus one end of the tray 2 includes an appropriately shaped recess 9 to receive a complimentary shaped container (such as plastics container 10 shown in Fig. 3) for housing the pegs. The recess 9 preferably has an open or perforated bottom 8A for water drainage while the container 10 is preferably of perforated form to facilitate washing and cleaning. The tray 2 includes integral handles 11 to convenience movement of the trolley 1, while sockets 12 at the corners of the tray 2 receive the legs 3A, 3B appropriate securing means (not shown) being provided to lock the legs 3A, 3B in the sockets 12 preferably in a removable manner.

The recess 5 can of course accept various sizes of basket B, and in a possible modification the insert 7 could be specially designed to carry a particular basket size e.g. by having an aperture profiled complementary to the base of the basket.

The trolley 13 of Fig. 3 is similar to the trolley 1 of Fig. 1 but has the base of its recess 5 perforated. Also the wheels 4 are on the other legs 3B so that the end 2B of the tray 2 should include the handles (or handlebar) for movement of the trolley 13 in wheelbarrow manner, as trolley 1.

Fig. 4 shows a clothes basket carrier 14 essentially in the form of a table but again a plastic tray 15 is utilised having a recess 5 for the basket B, including shallow peripheral wall 6. The bottom of the recess 5 may be ribbed and/or slotted 16. The legs 17 for the tray 15 comprise bent U- form rods which are hingedly secured to opposite ends of the tray 15, and the legs 17 are held apart by removable tie rods 18 engaging cross members 19 of the legs. The cross member 19 could carry a support 20 for a further basket transposable with the basket on tray 15 at appropriate times. A perforated peg container 21 is located at one end of the tray 15 in such a manner as to be removably carried by the tray 15. The legs 17 and the rods 18 are preferably coated for weather protection.

In the embodiment of Figs. 5 and 6 a trolley 21 is provided having a primary container 22 or basket which itself is capable of holding clothes in contrast to the tray of the previous embodiment, but the container 22 is also of plastics material, again made preferably by an injection moulding technique. The container 22 includes two pairs of opposite vertical grooves 23, 24 each groove pair receiving an H-shaped leg formation 25 supporting the container at a height above the ground, and at least one of the leg formations carries wheels 4 via an axle 26 which is preferably of plastics tubular form. The leg formations 25 can be made economically by a blow-moulding technique and can be secured to the container 22 for example by screws 27 at cross members 25A of the leg formations.

A useful feature is the arrangement of the container 22 to support and retain a conventional clothes basket B adjacent the upper mouth of the container 22, and for this purpose appropriate ledges 28 can be provided on an upper part of the container. Again, a housing 29 for a clothes peg container is provided on the basket 22 and an end of the basket 22 is formed as a handlebar 30. The container/basket 22 may have perforated portions e.g as shown at 22A.

Any of the trolleys 1, 13 and 21 and carrier 14 could have a subsidiary function as a table by the fitting of a top, such as top 31 in

Fig. 2. For location of the top 31 in the mouth of the tray/basket, the top 31 conveniently includes flange portions 32.

The basket trolley 40 shown in Fig. 7A is generally similar to that of Fig. 1 but in this case a folding leg arrangement is employed. Thus, each pair of legs 3A/3B is provided by the legs of a respective bent U-form tube 41, 42 joined together centrally by hinge pins 43 to permit folding. The base 41A of one U-tube 41 can be pivotally secured to the tray 2 at one end by holders 44 while the base 42A of the other U-tube 42 is removably held at the other end of the tray 2 by means of clips 45. The base of the tray 2 is again open but may comprise an apertured grid 46. The table top 7 can again be present as an ancillary feature, and may be sized to sit on ledge 8 within the tray recess (Fig. 7C) or may be larger (as shown dashed) to sit on top of the tray (Fig. 7D). Alternatively the top 7 could be hinged to the side of the tray 2.

The trolley 50 of Fig. 8A has a tray 2 with an open base but with corner pieces 51 for support of the clothes basket: again a folding leg arrangement 41, 42 is used. As can be seen in Fig. 8A the recess 9 for the pegs or peg container extends downwardly from the main body of the tray, whereas Fig. 8B shows a modification wherein this part 9 extends upwardly - the leg holders 44 and clips 45 can now be at the same horizontal level. Fig. 9 shows a rather similar trolley 55 but without the peg recess 9 and hence simpler. In the trolley 56 of Fig. 10, a plastics open-work grid 46 is shown for support of the clothes basket and also the peg container insert (in recess part 9) while Fig. 11 shows a trolley 57 of a similar but simpler arrangement.

The embodiment of Fig. 12 and 13 contrast with the previous embodiments in that instead of a plastics moulding the trays 2 of the trolleys 60, 61 are formed by a wire/metal mesh open-work construction, with a plastics coating on the metal mesh as a protection against weathering and rusting. The legs 3A, 3B in this and other embodiments may also have a protective coating applied such as a plastics or paint coating.

Fig. 14 shows perhaps an even simpler design of trolley 65 in accordance with the invention. Thus the "tray" in this case comprises a simple bent U tube 66, possibly with cross bar 67, the ends of the legs of the U-tube 66 being adapted to serve as handles 66A, 66B. A basket is supported by virtue of the inclined sides of the basket engaging the internal edge of the U-tube 66. Therefore, there will be a certain limit to the size of basket which can be handled by the trolley 65. In other previously described embodiments of the present invention the trolleys illustrated can handle a wide variety of sizes of basket, for example by virtue of the open-work grid base 46 supporting the basket.

The various trolleys can ensure that the supported basket is at least 20ins (51cm) above the supporting surface (ground) with a maximum height of 30 ins (76cm) with about 25ins (64cm) preferred.

Therefore the above carrier trolleys in accordance with the present invention constitute versatile apparatus for use in the placing or removal of clothes from a clothes line, and as they can be manufactured wholly or substantially wholly of plastics material they are able to be left out of doors e.g. at or near the drying green for substantial periods without deterioration to their construction.

Modifications are of course possible. Thus a different pattern of tray 2 could be used, for example having peg housings on opposite ends of the recess or with the peg recess 9 extending along a side edge of the tray 2. Also it would be possible to use skid devices on the legs as an alternative to wheels. The table top (e.g. 31) could be locked in position from underneath. Only three legs (as a minimum) may be employed.

CLAIMS

1. A carrier for a clothes basket comprising a rigid carrier member adapted to support a clothes basket, and legs to support the carrier member so that the basket is at an elevated location facilitating the placement and removal of clothes from the basket, the carrier member being formed of plastics material or by elements having an outer layer providing protection against weathering, the base of the carrier member being apertured for drainage of water from the carrier member.
2. A carrier member as claimed in claim 1, wherein means are provided enabling the legs to be removed from the carrier member or to be folded relative to the carrier member.
3. A carrier as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein the legs are provided by generally U-form members.
4. A carrier as claimed in claim 3, wherein the base of one U-form member is removably fitted to the carrier member to facilitate folding of the legs.
5. A carrier as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein at least one of the legs and preferably two includes means to facilitate movement of the carrier.
6. A carrier as claimed in claim 5, wherein said movement facilitating means comprise wheels.
7. A carrier member in any one of preceding claims, wherein the carrier member is in the form of a tray adapted to support and locate a basket.

8. A carrier as claimed in claim 1 to 6, wherein the carrier member is in the form of a primary container to hold articles.

9. A carrier member is claimed in claim 8, wherein the primary container includes support means to carry a basket for further articles.

10. A carrier as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the carrier member includes means for retaining or defining a secondary container to hold additional articles e.g. clothes pegs.

11. A carrier member as claimed in claim 10, wherein said secondary container serves to receive a removable receptacle for articles e.g. clothes pegs.

12. A carrier as claimed in claim 7, wherein the tray is configured to provide a recessed portion to receive the basket, a shallow peripheral wall of the recessed portion serving to retain the basket.

13. A carrier as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the carrier member includes a handlebar or like means to facilitate movement of the carrier.

14. A carrier as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the legs are of plastics material or have a plastics or like outer coating.

15. A carrier as claimed in claim 6, wherein the wheels comprise plastics wheels.

16. A carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein individual legs are provided and fitted to the carrier member by a releasable fastener.

17. A carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier member is formed by a plastics moulding.
18. A carrier as claimed in claim 8, wherein the base of the carrier member moulding is of open-work grid form.
19. A carrier as claimed in claim 18, wherein the base of the carrier member moulding is open with edge support members for the basket.
20. A carrier as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier member comprises an open-work cross-grid metal formation having a plastics protective layer thereon.
21. A carrier as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein a removable top is provided for the carrier member whereby the carrier can serve as a table, means being present for retainment of the top of the carrier member.
22. A carrier member as claimed in claim 7, wherein recessed portion of the tray is adapted to receive a sheet insert which is suitably configured e.g. to hold a basket.
23. A carrier for a clothes basket substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as illustrated in any one of the accompanying drawings.



The Patent Office

11

Application No: GB 9723790.3
Claims searched: 1 to 22

Examiner: Karl Whitfield
Date of search: 11 March 1998

Patents Act 1977 Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

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Other: Online database: Derwent World Patents Index accessed via Questel

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
X	GB 2212114 A (HARVEY) whole document	1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13-15 & 17
X	GB 2204536 A (ALEXANDER) whole document	1, 2, 5-7, 13-15 & 17
X	GB 2178305 A (BAVEYSTOCK) especially fig 1	1 at least
X	WO 91/07539 A1 (SINESI) whole document	1, 5, 6, 13-15 & 17
X	WO 90/02069 A1 (DONALDSON) whole document	1, 5-7, 13-15, 17 & 20
X	US 5294009 (MAURER et al.) especially col. 4 ll. 14-15	1, 5, 6, 14, 15 & 17-19
X	FR 2614860 A (LEGENDRE) especially the figures	1-7, 13, 15 & 20

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